000 oil so far and we know it for the imagination of readers to fill up the picture when the entire territories have been surveyed.

316 654 Although a good deal of survey work has been done but actual working has not so far been seriously commenced save in the case of Corundum, Sapphires of which about 30,000 Tolas have been dug out from the Padar Mines and the Aquamarines which have been won from the Skardu Mines. Prospecting licenses for Ochre, Gypsum, Talc and Lignite have been issued to private individuals or firms and applications for grant of prospecting licenses for some other minerals are under consideration. This no doubt shows that some beginning in the exploitation of Mineral Wealth has been made though on a small scale and day by day increasing number of people are getting interested in the business bringing within reach of the Government fresh sources of income. The working of the principal minerals on a commercial scale on which the State can build its hopes especially Bauxite, Iron, Copper, Lignite and Coal is ruled out problem unless communication to the mines situated over high mountains are improved to facilitate their carriage in raw condition to commercial centres to compete in the market or to facilitate the carriage of heavy machinery and engineering plants to the mines for converting the raw material into finished commercial products.

433 For the conversion of these inert resources into actual wealth which will flow into and fill up the coffers of the State in ever-increasing bulk bringing all-round prosperity in the country it is necessary to impart requisite training to the people in industrial development.

None of the minerals have so far been developed and worked on scientific basis for lack of proper communications, public enthusiasm or for other reasons. To derive full advantage of these resources, it is hoped, the State would formulate vigorous industrial policy, grant adequate protection, concessions and other guarantees so that big capitalists might feel encouraged to invest their wealth in large scale ventures. Even for small undertakings working whereof can be immediately taken in hand the following facilities should whenever necessary, be extended to the labours so that the traditional shyness of the local residents might be won over and sufficient nerve, confidence and spirit of adventure be developed in our youngmen who may feel an instinct for industrial careers in preference to clerical jobs. Some of the more important requisites for industrial development as stated by the Industrial Department are :—

1. Transport facilities,
2. State aid,
3. Protective tariffs during the stage of infancy,
4. Preservation of indigenous manufactures,
5. An efficient and wide-spread Banking System,
6. Organization of Markets,
7. Scientific researches, and above all
8. The quality of Human Factor.

The present low standard of output and of comfort, the contempt for manual labour, the low vitality, the absence of ambition, the inordinate tendency to borrow for unproductive expenditure are individually or collectively responsible for keeping a large proportion of the State population low in the scale of civilization and progress. A weak and ignorant population, however, richly endowed with natural resources cannot be made to appreciate the economic possibilities around them and to seize the opportunity for bettering themselves.

6:Spate N-4 (no date)1954 AWI India
Kashmir Ref

Other Occupations

Supplementary to agriculture proper are sericulture and pastoralism. By 1900 the former activity was decrepit as well as ancient, but the introduction of modern filatures has led to a wide extension of mulberry culture, though not enough cocoons are produced to keep the filatures at Srinagar and Jammu and the weaving factory at Srinagar working to capacity. There is also, of course, a good deal of hand-loom weaving of silk, cotton, and wool; silk is a major export.

The main pastoral activity is sheep-rearing; this is transhumant, the sheep live in winter beneath the human dwellings—adding to their warmth—and in summer are taken by professional shepherds to the high pastures above the tree-line; this is the *marg* common in place-names and strictly equivalent to the Swiss *alp*. Winter feed is willow and dried flag (Iris) leaves. After agriculture, wool production is probably the chief means of livelihood in Kashmir, employing full- or part-time some 300,000 people. The famous Cashmere shawl industry died a languishing death in the 1870s, but there is naturally a large cottage production of woollen clothing, blankets, and rugs; felting is important also, and Srinagar has a large woollens factory. Mineral exploitation is insignificant, though a start has been made on the commercial exploitation of lignite from some of the karewas, which has been used locally by the villagers for years. A minor industry of interest is the manufacture of cricket bats and so on from the willows. But perhaps the most lucrative of all trades—in normal times—is the exploitation of tourists.

Srinagar

For this, of course, the capital Srinagar (207,787) is the centre: "quaint" in itself, with its carved wooden architecture, immediately surrounded by the beautiful Mogul gardens and magnificent lake and river scenery, central for hunting and mountaineering, it is—on the surface—one of the most attractive cities in all Asia. But it has always been liable to fire and to flood, at times to earthquake; its site obviously leaves much to be desired from a sanitary point of view.[17] Now, if report be true, are its citizens any more virtuous, in any direction, than they need be.

The factories of Srinagar are largely due to state enterprise, and make it the only industrial centre of the slightest note in Kashmir. But craft industries are more important. Neglecting the obvious tourist lines—silver and copper work, wood-carving, papier-mâché and lacquer—the leading crafts are probably carpet-weaving and leather work: leather gear of various sorts is essential to transport in the mountains, and the products

[17] In the 1892 cholera epidemic four people died in one day "and the only shops which remained open were those of the sellers of white cloth for winding sheets." The total mortality was 3780 of a population assessed variously (Gunnison, 1129).

132 Baltistan, the country between the Nu Shigar and the Nubra, is slightly
136 more favoured than Ladakh, with *c.* 6 ins. precipitation and more glaciers;
but it is still very harsh. The valleys at 8000–10,000 ft have a few patches
of pine and deodar on the slopes, willow and poplar along the streams.
241 Agriculture depends on the snow, which lies from mid-December to mid-
March; in winter many villages are reached by the sun for barely an hour or
two a day, but in summer the heat in the narrow rock-walled valleys—
especially around Skardo—is intense. The usual crops, with ordinary and
naked barley prominent, are grown, a spring and an autumn crop where
water is sufficient. Lucerne, carefully tended, is important, but except for
intensive manuring of the sandy soils farming is extremely primitive, and
rotations unknown. The hot summer enables a wide variety of fruits—
peaches, melons, grapes, above all apricots—and even a little tobacco to be
grown. But the absence of the demographically restrictive social institu-
• 316 tions of Ladakh keeps the Baltis miserably poor. Here and there washing
for alluvial gold eken out incomes a little, or at least enables revenue
demands to be met.

241 To the E conditions get progressively worse. Around Panggong there are
361 a few fields of barley and peas on the fans at 14,000 ft or a little more; at
Tankse "the few houses that constitute the village seem to hide behind a
little grove of willow trees planted on one side of a stream, as if these trees
were the greatest treasure of a place that wished to put up a brave front, a
green and damp façade, to the hostile dry world before it". But on the
136 plateaux NE of Panggong even pastoralism is difficult. The Chang-chenmo
Valley has some vegetation: tamarisks on the floodplain, *burtse* on the slopes,
and just below the snow-line some flowering plants and patches of grass,
135 shared by tame yaks and wild asses. Here and there hot springs "water the
gravelly plains into producing a little green grass . . . so precious that each
patch has a name." [*]

437 Yet this most negative of regions has its place in human history. The old
trade to Yarkand and Kashgar is dead or dying, but at the hands of man
himself: politics in Sinkiang and Kashmir are responsible for its decay, not
the desolate leagues of rock and ice nor the murderous winds of the Kara-
korum. The passes are open for only five or six months of the twelve; but
over them, carried on yaks or even sheep, travelled jade, hemp, and silk
from China; from India goods from the bazaars of Srinagar and Amritsar,
787 sugar and salt; horses from the dead lakes of Rupshu. Goods of less bulk,
but to many of highest value, also traversed this, one of the strangest
pilgrim routes of the world. Chinese disciples of the Enlightened One, seek-
ing the shrines of Peshawar and Sarnath and Bodh Gaya or the libraries of
Taxila, fought their bitter way over these savage gables of the world; and
here too came Christian men, perhaps fleeing from the tide of Islam, per-

[*] Shebbeare, *op. cit.*, 108–11, 118–38. For the facts of the next paragraph, *ibid.*, 108–11.